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OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over S. one's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, the bill in relation to deserters, disfranchising all who are abroad, and who do not return within such time as may be set in a forthcoming proclamation by President Lincoln was taken up and discussed until the close of the morning hour. The bill to prevent the interference of the military at elections, in States, came up, and Mr. Howard, of Michigan, addressed the Senate, at length, in opposition to the bill. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Kernan introduced a resolution calling for the appointment of a special committee to investigate and report to the House whether any civilians in the employ of the Government were sent home to take part in the elections of their respective States, and whether they were furnished with transportation at the expense of the Government which went over under the rule. Mr. McClurg, of Missouri, rose to make an explanation in regard to a charge of forgery preferred by his colleague, Mr. Blair, in a speech which was made by the latter some days ago. In the course of his remarks Mr. McClure caused a letter to be read by the Clerk of the House, in which Mr. Blair was denounced as a reckless malignant and unscrupulous liar and scoundrel. He also repeated the charges heretofore made against Mr. Blair, alleging that he had smuggled liquor to the amount of \$8,000 contrary to the Treasury regulations.

Mr. Blair asked that a select committee might be appointed to investigate the charge made by his colleague, adding, "I pronounce his allegation a base and wilful falsehood. He has taken the place of the forger and falsifier, and I pronounce him an infamous liar and scoundrel."

The speaker promptly called Mr. Blair to order as having violated the rules and appealing to the House to aid him in their enforcement.

There was at this time intense excitement on the floor and in the galleries.

Mr. Blair—I could not apply other language to an allegation so false and utterly contemptible. I ask for a special committee to send for persons and papers. If I am guilty of the charge I am not fit to be a representative. The guilt will fall upon those who have assumed the charge.

Mr. speaker requested the gentleman to reduce his resolution to writing.

Mr. McClurg—I have paper now before me, purporting to be written by some of my colleague's staff, which I should be much pleased to lay before the committee. Turning to Mr. Blair, and holding out a paper, he asked, "You will not deny this signature?"

Mr. Blair—"I will not reply to any question from such an infamous scoundrel!"

The speaker again called the gentleman to order.

Mr. Blair presented his resolution in writing—that a select committee of three members be appointed by the Speaker, with power to send for persons and papers, and investigate

the charge of J. W. McClurg, of Missouri, against Francis P. Blair, Jr., of said State, of a violation of the laws in the matter of alleged liquor speculation; which was amended on motion of Mr. Stevens by adding "that the committee also inquire into the genuineness or falsity of the documents produced by Mr. McClurg"—and was then passed. The bill amendatory of the National Bank act, was taken up and discussed.

A letter from Annapolis says:—"I have it from reliable military authority that Burnside's second expedition will be organized here.—Capt. French, one of the General's Staff, who has been in this city several days, has caused to be surveyed and laid out sufficient ground for the encampment, on the lands of Judge Brewer, Dr. Alfred G. Welsh, and Elisha C. Taylor, about two miles from the city, near Camp Parole. I learn there will be at least fifty thousand troops here in the course of a few weeks.

A dispatch from Newbern, N. C., states that the "Raleigh Standard" announces that General D. H. Hill assumes command of Charleston, and that Beauregard goes to the Southwest. Twenty five Yankees escaped while under guard thirty-six miles north of Raleigh, en route for Americus, Ga." The same dispatch adds that "the Savannah Republican of the 4th has a rumor that the Yankees were landing the previous evening in considerable force at Darien."

The indications with regard to the contemplated re-organization of the Army of the Potomac now are, that General Meade will be temporarily retained in the command, the army to be divided into three Divisions, under the command respectively of Generals Sedgwick, Hancock and Warren. Gen. Grant will also have two corps, one under Burnside, the other under Sigel.

Admiral Porter's naval expedition left Vicksburg on Saturday last with the intention, it was supposed, of ascending the Red River to Alexandria, Louisiana, and beyond, if possible. On Monday firing was heard at Natchez, from the direction of the fleet, but from what cause does not appear to be known.

Advices from Vicksburg, March 15, report a large number of fires. Several U. S. Government storehouses have been set on fire by incendiaries. On that day a large railroad depot and several adjoining buildings were burned, consuming large quantities of Government property.

A block of buildings, used as U. S. commissary stores, fell in Memphis on the 20th, burying in the ruins about forty negroes, and five or six soldiers who were guarding it. Four women were more or less injured, and twelve children were the victims of the fall.

The Philadelphia papers announce the death of Dr. Franklin Bache, the oldest great grand son of Benjamin Franklin, for many years a distinguished member of the medical profession. He died on Saturday afternoon. He was born in Philadelphia, October 25th, 1792.

Some queries in relation to the "Convention" now sitting in this place, signed F., appear in the "Virginia State Journal." They seem to have been produced by a debate, a portion of which is thus reported:

Mr. Downey.—I wish to offer an amendment to disfranchise those who now are giving aid or comfort to rebellion.

Mr. Wing.—Shall this little body, the paucity of whose numbers renders us ridiculous in the eyes of the world, pretend to disfranchise a million of men!

Mr. Downey.—If we don't disfranchise traitors we shall render ourselves ridiculous in the eyes of the world."

The following are the queries:—"If a member of the 'Constitutional Convention' believes—that a large proportion of the voters for the election of any of his fellow members or of himself had voluntarily borne arms against the United States, or avowed and demonstrated their allegiance to the Rebel Government, and in defiance of the law providing for the Convention, had voted (with or without taking the oath,) how can he regard himself or his fellow members (for whom such *pseudo* electors voted) as legally elected?"

If the 'paucity in numbers of said Convention would render that body shamefaced before the world, if known,' and if a member of said Convention in view of said 'paucity of numbers' question the right of that body to pass certain ordinances—upon what ground can he, with any degree of self respect, retain his position in the Convention?"

If members of the "Constitutional Convention" believe themselves to be illegally elected, or doubt the right of the Convention to amend the organic law for the large population who have not had and cannot now have any voice in the matter—is it not fair to infer that they were elected, accepted the position, or are now acting for the purpose of opposing the objects for which the Convention was called?"

Daniel Clarke, Sam'l. H. Berry, Edward W. Belt, and Fendall Marbury, have been nominated by the Democrats of Prince George's county, Md., to represent Prince George's County in the State Constitutional Convention (if one should be called.)

John William Wallace, of Philadelphia, has been selected by the judges of the Supreme Court of the U. S. for reporter of decisions, vice Judge Black, resigned. Mr. Wallace has been reporter of Pennsylvania decisions.

Mary J. Johnson and Carrie E. Jones, who are accused of being Confederate spies, have been sent from Washington to Boston to be confined in the Fitchburg House of Correction.

On the 17th instant a large force of Confederates approached Seabrook, S. C., in a boat, and captured a picket boat with five soldiers, but it is added "were subsequently repulsed."

The reported intended invasion of Kentucky by Longstreet is denied by a dispatch from Chattanooga, which says that Longstreet is on the way to join Lee.

Commander J. H. Gillis, U. S. N., has been detached from the command of the Commodore Morris, and ordered to the West Gulf Blockading Squadron.

General Seymour had gone to Pilatka, Florida, to concert what, it is said, may be an important movement.